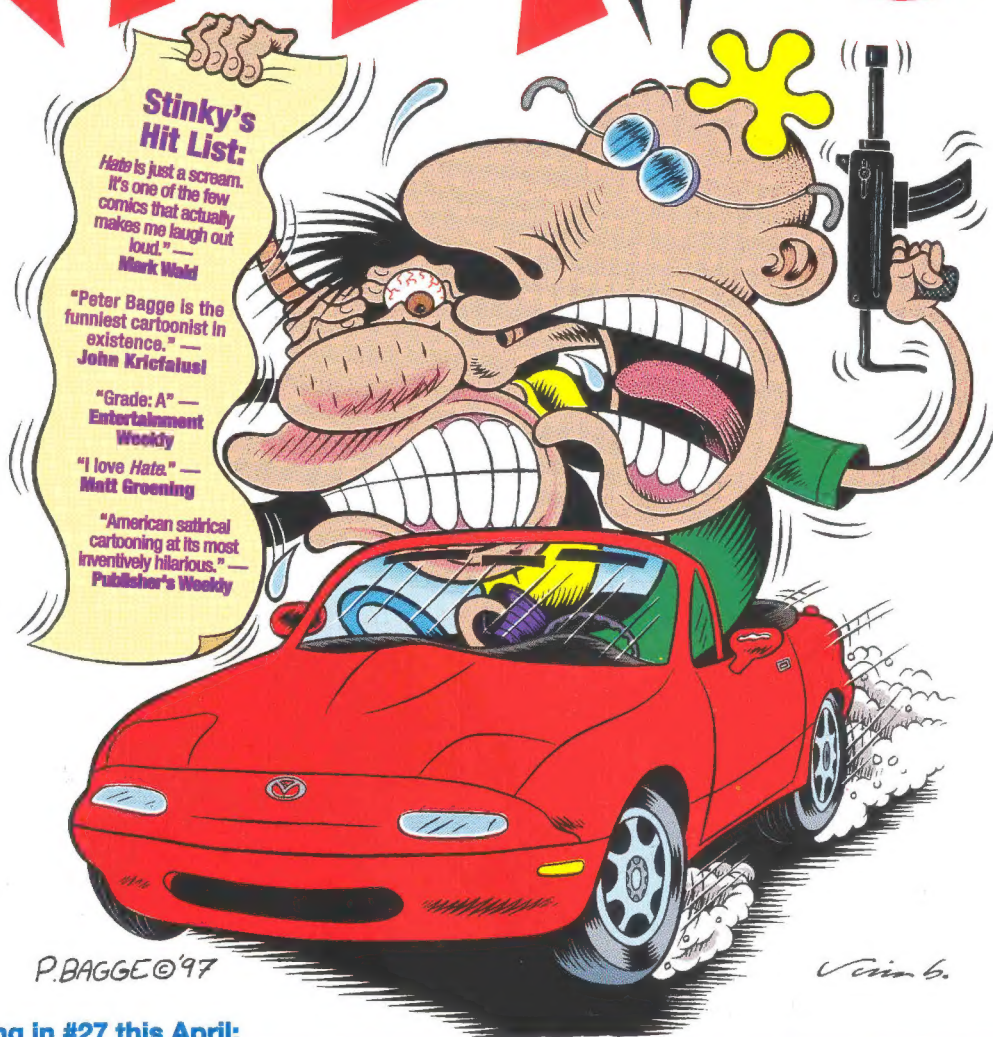


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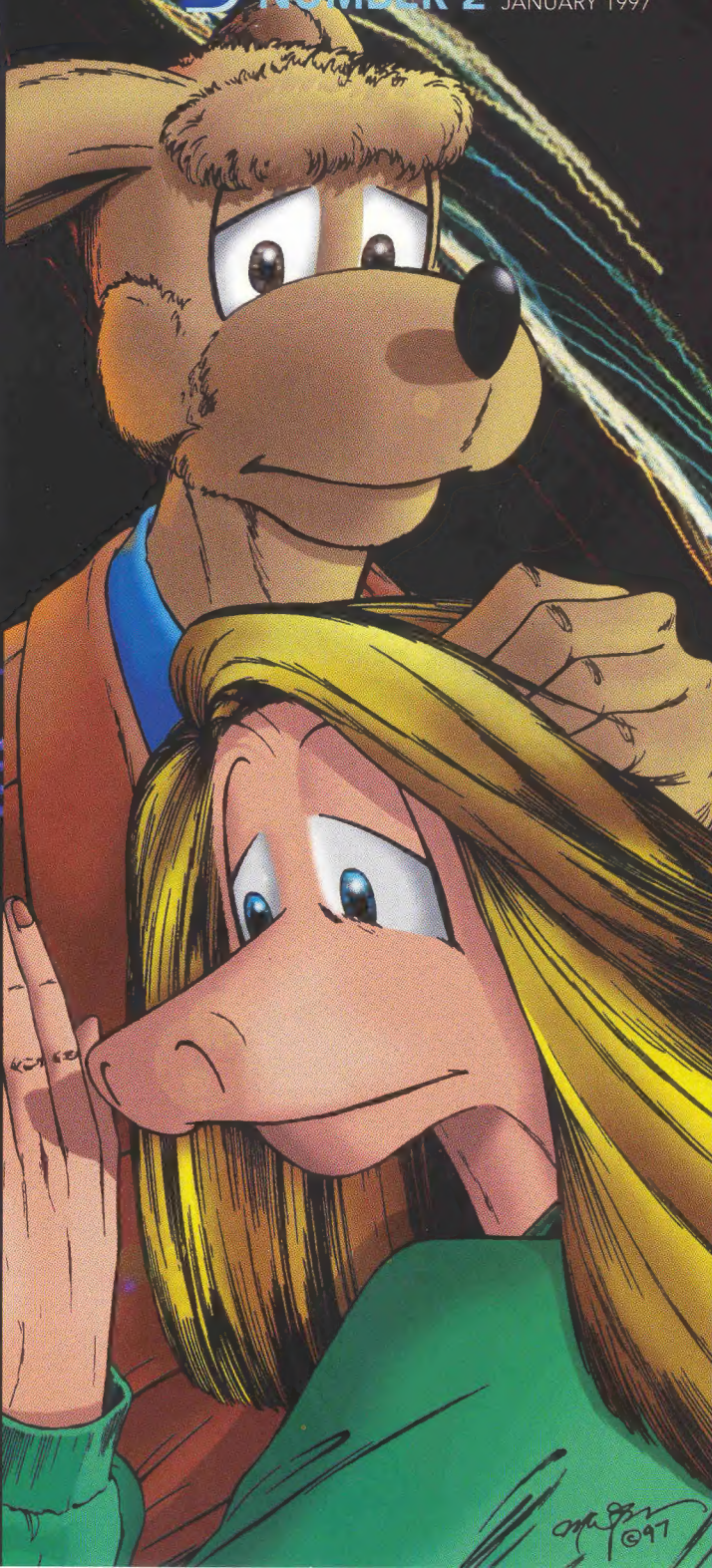
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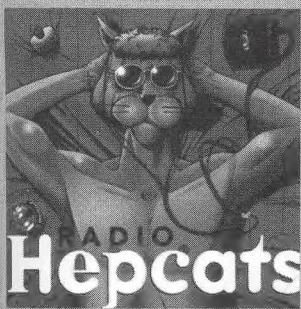
MARTIN WAGNER'S Hepcats

NUMBER 2 JANUARY 1997



get it here

Be honest with yourself. You know your life is a meaningless lie until you muster the fortitude to grab that checkbook and get your hands on some of this magnificent Hepmerchandise we have to offer you here! Let the feeding frenzy begin!



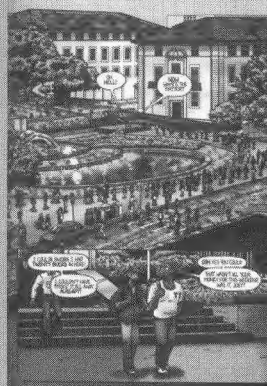
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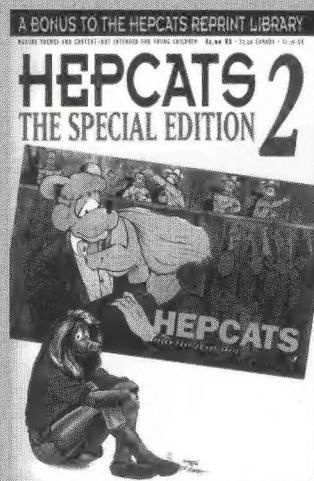
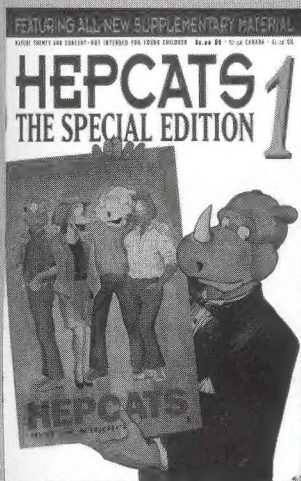
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Martin self-published a dozen issues before coming aboard at AP, and you collectors and curiosity seekers can still get some. These all feature art, covers, letters, and miscellaneous stuff that won't be in the AP versions, and quantities (especially of #11 and #12) are limited.
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Antarctic Blast

January 1997

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ANTARCTIC PRESS Attractions

subject to change

HAPPY NEW YEAR

As 1996 draws to a close, Antarctic Press is looking forward to an even bigger and better year ahead — and to prove it, here's a look at our schedule of planned releases through spring of the New Year.

Of course, we'll be bringing back plenty of favorites, including **Warrior Nun Areala**, **Shotgun Mary**, **Robotech**, **Ninja High School**, **Gold Digger**, **Hepcats**, and **Luftwaffe 1946**. And there's plenty of up-and-coming stuff in the wings, too: **Addam Omega**, **Judgment Pawns**, **Box Office Poison**, **Helter Skelter**, **Haana** and **Diesel**.

own. Starting in February, Antarctic Press presents a new full-color four-issue miniseries called **Shotgun Mary: Blood Lore** written by Herb Mallette (Shotgun Mary miniseries, Deviltown) and drawn by a brilliant (and very polite) new English artist, Neil Googe.

Robotech - Beginning in March, Antarctic Press brings you **Robotech** with all-new artwork and stories. Artists like Ben Dunn, Fred Perry, Joe Wight, and Ted Nomura will contribute to this unique and different presentation of the long-running manga title.

Hepcats - Martin Wagner's critically acclaimed title continues on a monthly basis in 1997. Also look for the **10th anniversary special** to be released in the summer.

Gold Digger - The cult classic from Fred Perry continues in 1997 with a color special released in late summer.

We've come a long way since 1985, when Antarctic Press started with just one title. The company has seen continuous growth since 1989, and 1996 was our biggest year to date. Despite some of the downturns in the industry in general, we're still excited about our line and the products we produce. The support our fans have shown us has been phenomenal, and it has really kept us going. In addition to our current projects we have many other "things" lined up down the road that are going to be a lot of fun and that fans will enjoy getting.

One more thing: make sure you support your local retailers. Without them you could not get a lot of the cool stuff not only from us but from the wide variety of publishers and related suppliers in this industry. Diversity and quality have improved significantly due to all the new companies that have formed these last few years. And with these improvements I can only be excited about the New Year ahead.

Joeming W. Dunn
Chief Operating Officer

Following the huge success of the first **Warrior Nun Areala Action Figure**, Antarctic Press is planning to produce more action figures in 1997 starting with **Shotgun Mary** in May 1997. Our action figures are meant to support the comic industry and get new customers into the comic specialty stores. So if you liked the first one, watch out, because we're planning to improve the look and quality of our subsequent figures to accommodate the fan and collector.

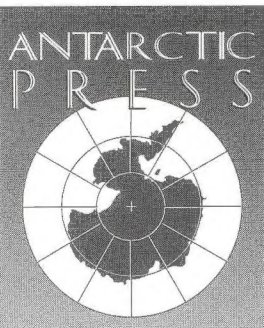
Here is a closer look at the plans for some of our titles:

Warrior Nun Areala - Hurtling toward an action-packed close in March is **Warrior Nun Areala: Scorpio Rose**, written by Steve Englehart and illustrated by Ben Dunn. Beginning in January, a three-issue full-color miniseries by Patrick Thornton titled **Warrior Nun Dei: Aftertime** will knock your socks off. This book features computer-painted art similar to the original Shotgun Mary miniseries. **Warrior Nun: Black and White** will feature breathtaking new interpretations of Warrior Nun and her mythos by a variety of writers and artists. And coming in May is the **Warrior Nun Regular Series**, written by Barry Lyga (Lillith) and illustrated by Brian Denham (Badrock v. Violator).

Shotgun Mary - Originally developed as a spin-off title from **Warrior Nun Areala**, **Shotgun Mary** has taken on a life of its

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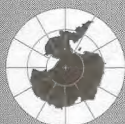
Hepcats

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MARTIN WAGNER

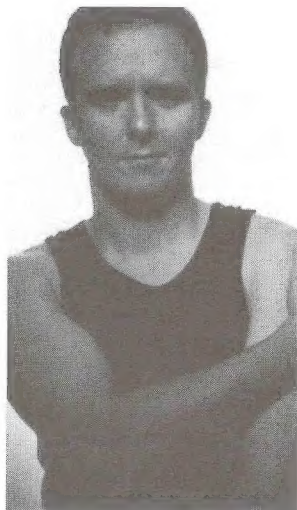
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED BY
DOUBLE DIAMOND PRESS, AUGUST 1989

WAY OF THE WORLD PROLOGUE
DRAWN AT RHINOCEROS STUDIOS,
AUSTIN, TEXAS, JANUARY 1997

ISSUE NUMBER 2
JANUARY 1997



ANTARCTIC PRESS
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



HEPCATS 2

CREATOR'S COMMENTARY TO 1997 EDITION

(These introductions are provided by Martin Wagner as exclusives to the Antarctic Press reprints of *Hepcats*' first 12 issues. We recommend you read them after reading the story, so as to avoid spoilers.)

Hepcats #2 is something of an odd duck in the series' history. Another case of "young artist enthusiastically latching on to expanded medium," it's a very important issue in the development of my storytelling skills. On its own terms, from a narrative standpoint, I think it has a problem or three, not to mention my purely masturbatory approach to the drawings and layouts. I got a lot out of my system with the sophomore issue of *Hepcats*, but in so doing I enabled myself to cross the dividing line between pure gag-a-day strip humor and more complex, character-driven tales.

The episode is roughly based upon an actual New Orleans/Mardi Gras vacation I took with my ex-wife in February 1989, almost exactly eight years ago as I write these words. (Pause momentarily as I contemplate my mortality.) Those of you who are Hepfans from the early years have followed my exhaustive and possibly very annoying history of my ill-fated first marriage to a titty—er, ahem, *exotic* dancer. Call it the indiscretion of youth. Call it sex short-circuiting the higher cerebral functions. It was a fucked-up time in my life, regardless, but, being the sort of person who tries to take the positives out of any experience no matter how disagreeable (someone once mentioned that if a bunch of us were stranded in the Sahara Desert, I'd spout something like "At least we'll all get tans!") I feel I got a wealth of storytelling material out of it, and it enabled me to look at a situation I was in, detach myself from it somewhat, and lay it all out on paper.

The actual vacation itself was most unpleasant. It didn't take me long to realize my wonderful bride had simply used me as a plane ticket to get her back to her old homestead where she could party down and make a few extra bucks at her former club of employment. (Gang, this is back when I was a *dumbfuck*, make no mistake about it!) I felt ignored and hurt by the situation, much like Arnie does here, though in "Trial by Intimacy," Erica finally realizes she's been neglectful of Arnie and makes amends, making her behavioral motivation in the story's first half the mere excitement of being back in her old stomping grounds rather than anything particularly selfish and sinister. This gives the issue something of an unrealistic, abrupt, Hollywood-ish happy ending, but I just didn't want to make Erica out to be a total bee-yotch like you-know-who. After all, she was to be one of the leads with her own graphic novel coming up! You folks needed to like her!

The action of the narrative meanders somewhat, until the climax just kind of comes up because it's time to end the issue. But, by attempting a more straightforward and dramatic plot at this time, I was essentially educating myself in the nuances of dramatic writing, something I would finally really get a grip on around issues #6-8. And the layouts! What was I thinking?! Sideways formatting, making you flip the pages up? Double-page splashes with full bleeds on virtually every page, with some page breaks cutting characters' faces right in half? Gah! Rest assured my printer gave me no end of hell about this, as well they might have. Thankfully, after this, I came to my artistic senses, but this was a burst I needed to get off my youthful chest, so that I could move on to the meat of the series with something of a clearer head. It's true that in order to take a big step forward in one's development, an artist will have to take a step or five back. Warts and all notwithstanding, without issue #2, *Hepcats* wouldn't be as good as it is today (he said smugly), nor as especially good as it will be tomorrow.

Many fans have kindly told me I'm too hard on this issue, that there are elements to the drawing and even story to be proud of. I'm flattered by that and admit there is stuff in here I like and recall fondly. I mean, if that weren't the case, I wouldn't be willing to keep it in print!

A story point or two. Much of the specifics in the issue are real, like the obscenely overpriced menus or the woman wrestler in the French Quarter (though I understand the real event was rigged all along and just for show). The French Quarter Cabaret is actually the Bourbon Burlesque Club, where my ex worked and which is still very much there. I think Aerosmith or someone like them shot a video there. The club manager Gus is a pure invention; the concept of the sweet fatherly titty bar owner is a fantasy from the Hallmark-card world of *Omaha the Cat Dancer*. Real titty bar managers are crass, cynical flesh peddlers with no motivations in life beyond the acquisition of cash and easy pussy; they're little different from pimps, to be honest.

Madeliene and Adrian, who make brief appearances here, return to the comic in issues #13-14 as more substantial supporting players.

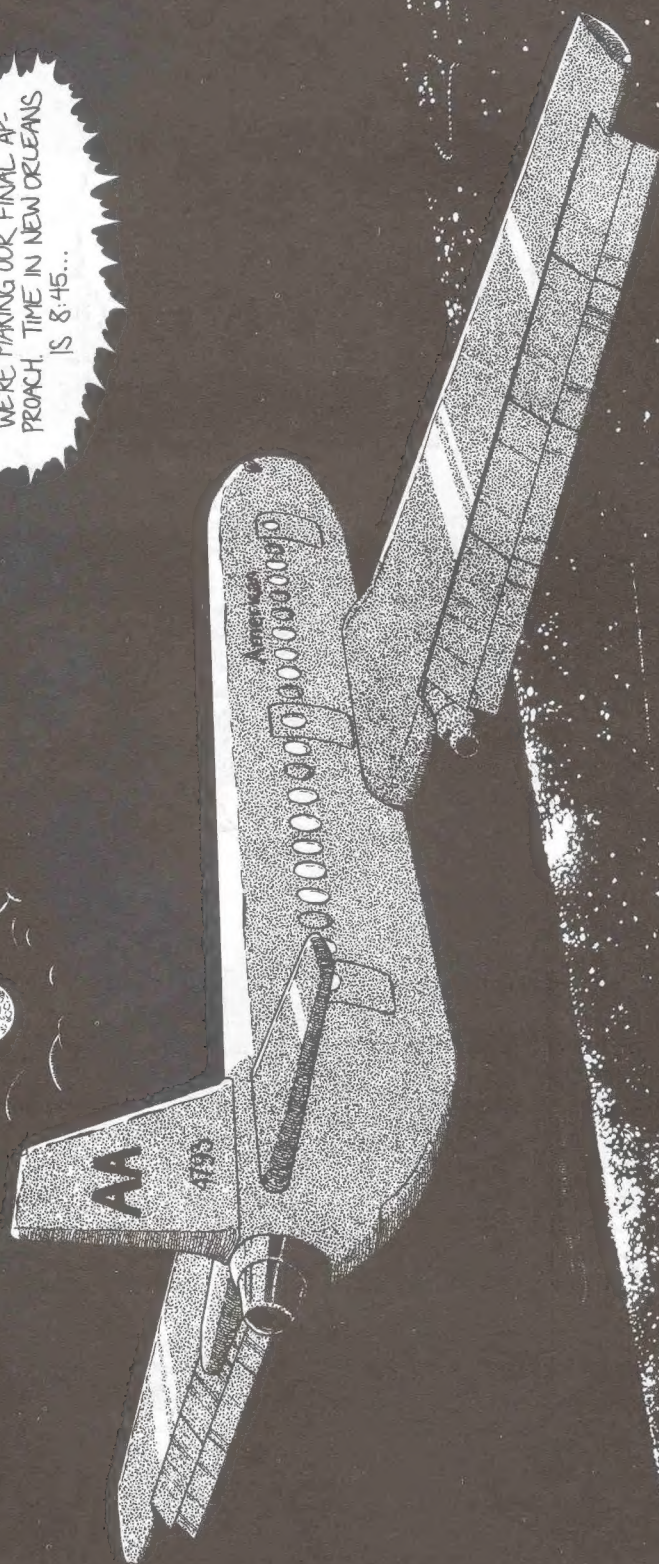
Finally, to this edition I have at long last made one small art correction. The plane on the opening page now has engines on the wings like a real plane. I figure if George Lucas can go back and "fix" his *Star Wars* films, which most of us thought were fine in the first place, there's nothing wrong with me fixing *Hepcats*.

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
WE'RE MAKING OUR FINAL AP-
PROACH. TIME IN NEW ORLEANS
IS 8:45...







TRIAL BY INTIMACY

SNARF

AWWW HAVE WE GOT TWO TIRED BOYS HERE! HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WAITING?

COUPLE HOURS.

JOEY BLEW ABOUT HALF HIS CASH ON VIDEO GAMES.

'LEAST HE WASN'T BORED. I DID SOME STUDYING.

JEEZ, I'M SO SORRY YOU GUYS HAD TO GET AN EARLY FLIGHT. I WISH WE COULD'VE BEEN TOGETHER.

THERE
THEY ARE.
POOR GUYS.

GUNTHER!
JOEY!

ANW. HAVE
WE GOT TWO TIRED
BOYS HERE! HOW
LONG HAVE YOU
BEEN WAITING?

COUPLE HOURS.

JOEY BLEW ABOUT HALF HIS CASH ON VIDEO GAMES.

BLEW HALF SH ON 10.0 S.

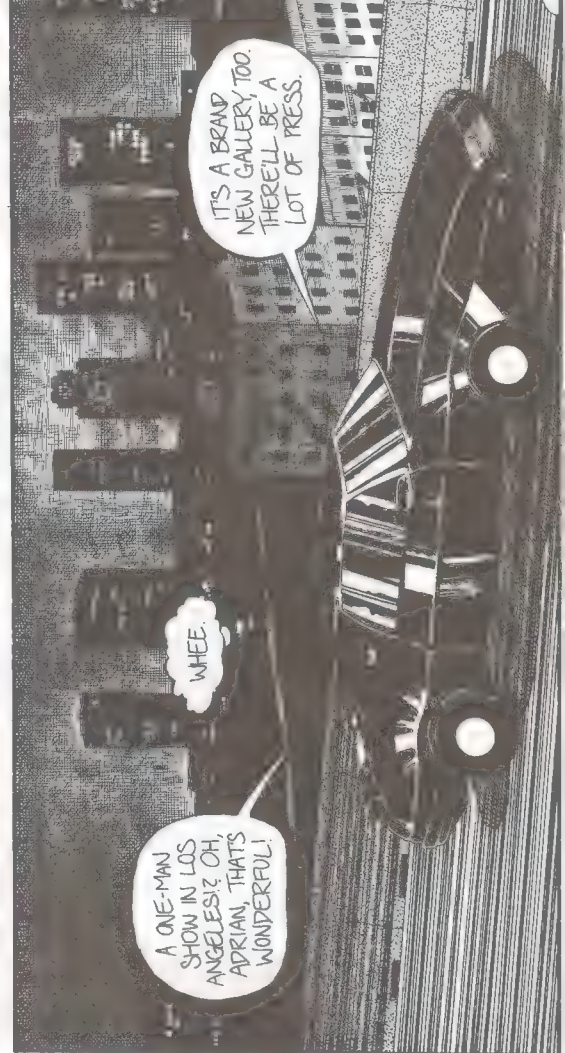
JEEZ, I'M
SO SORRY
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HAD TO GET
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FLIGHT.
I WISH WE
COULD'VE
BEEN
TOGETHER

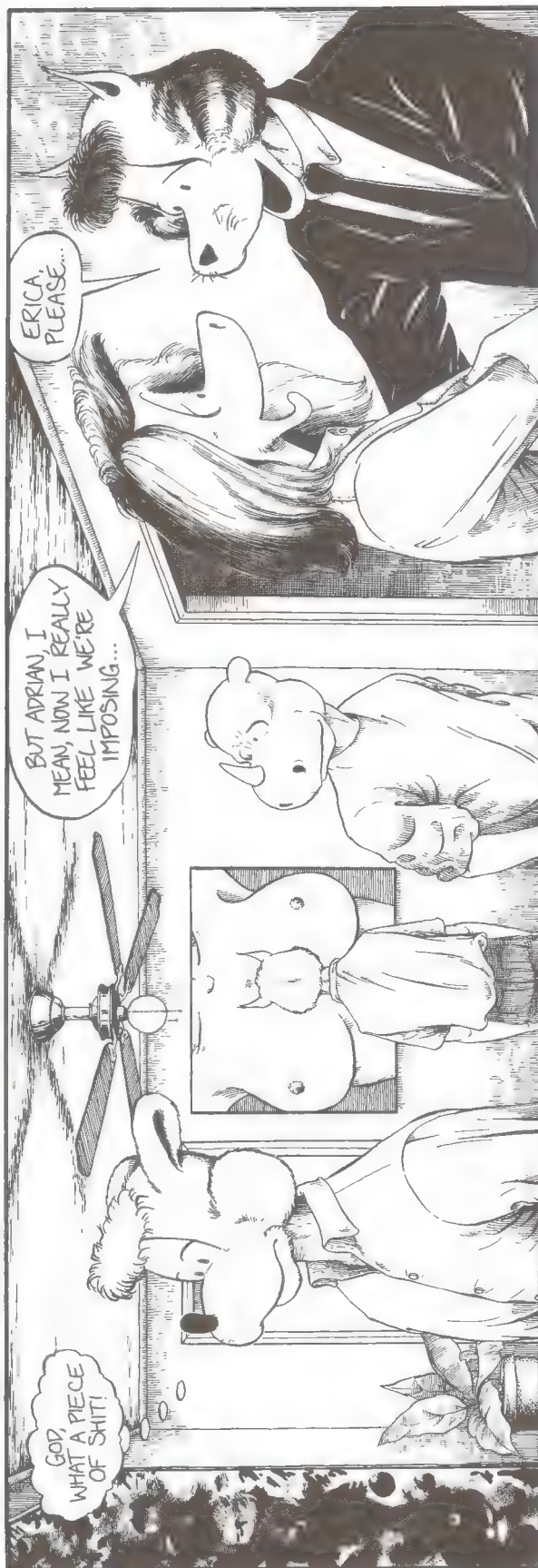
YEAH,
WELL...

WE WOULD'VE BEEN
IF YOU'D PLANNED THIS
BETTER, BABY.

HUH?
OH, WOW.
Y'ALL ARE
HERE...

THERE HE IS!
LET'S GO! **ADRIAN!**





WELL, LET ME
SHOW YOU GUYS WHERE
YOU CAN DROP YOUR
STUFF...
UH, IT'S GUNTHER,
RIGHT?

UH, YEAH...
THANKS!

AND YOU'RE
JOEY. GOT
IT.

HEY, THESE
ARE PRETTY COOL
PAINTINGS, DUDE.

ARNIE?

HE'S AN
OLD FRIEND... I
HAVEN'T SEEN
HIM IN YEARS.

HUH? OH... I'M
SORRY...

HAVE I
GOT DARK GREEN
STEAM COMING
OUT OF MY EARS
OR SOMETHING?

AM I BEING
TOO HYPER?

NO BABY...
BUT YOU'VE BEEN
AWFUL QUIET, EVER
SINCE WE GOT
OFF THE PLANE.

WELL, KINDA.
MAYBE. I DON'T
KNOW.

IT'S SOMETHING.

I'M SORRY
I'LL SLOW
DOWN.

HHMMMM...WA...

WHERE'S
YOUR COAT?
YOU'RE
READY?

WELL, ON
ON, GUY
WE'RE GO
MISS ALL
FUN!

I'VE NEVER
TO THE FRENCH
QUARTER. TH
OUGHTA BE
FUN!

FRENCH QUARTER

Bourbon

SO ADRIAN'S
GOING HOME?

WELL, HELL, I
GUESS IT WAS EASIER'N
TRYING TO FIND A
PLACE TO PARK.

MAN, YOU AINT
KIDDING! LOOK
AT THIS PLACE!—

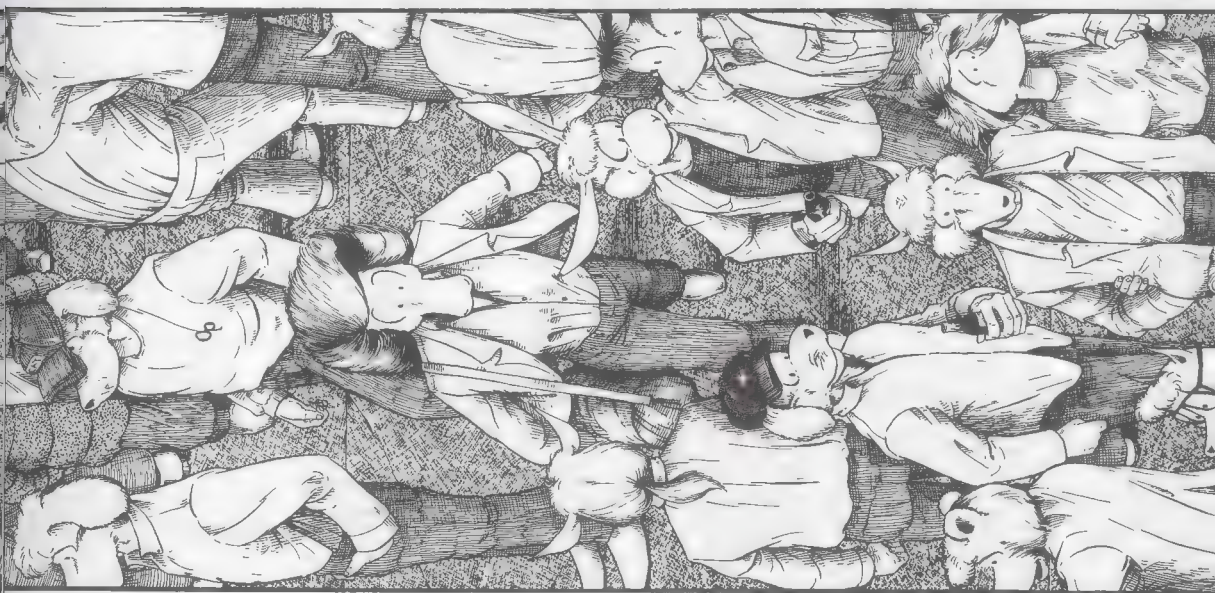
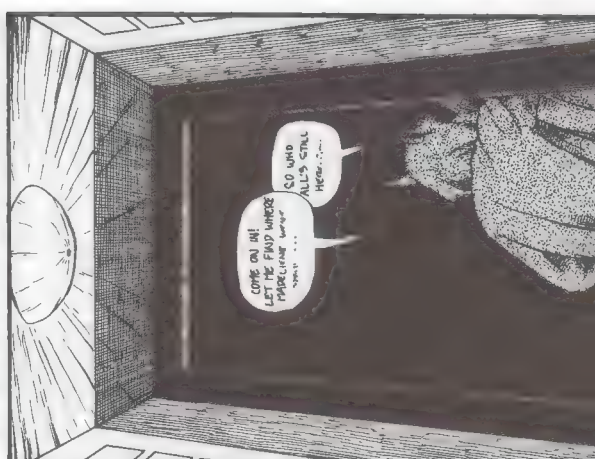


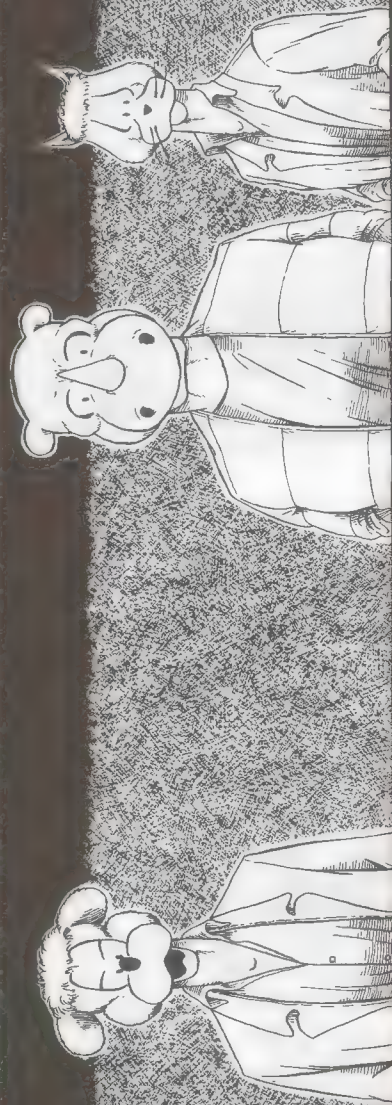
HEY, AREN'T
WE GOING TO
STOP AND LOOK
AT ANY OF THIS
SHIT?

WHAT'S
YOUR
HURRY?
WE GOT
ALL NIGHT.

WELL, IF A
CERTAIN PERSON
WOULD SLOW THE
FUCK DOWN!

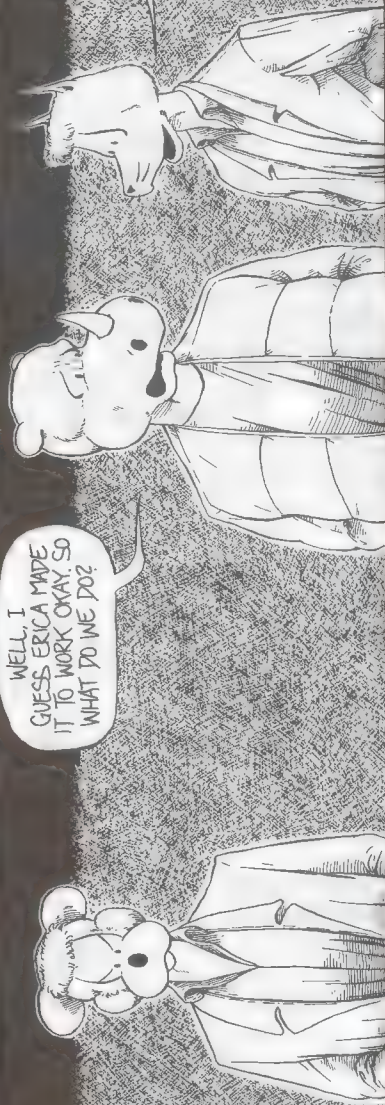






WELL, I
GUESS ERICA MADE
IT TO WORK OKAY SO
WHAT DO WE DO?

GO GET DRUNK!
I DON'T SEE ANY
REASON TO CHANGE
ANY OF OUR PLANS.



I LOOKED IN THE
PAPER THE TAIL END OF
SOME PARADES SUP-
POSED TO COME DOWN
CANAL STREET IN AN
HOUR...

YOU WANNA GET
SOMETHIN TO EAT?

DOWN HERE?
YOU'RE CRAZY!
THESE GUYS PULL
OUT THE TOURIST MENUS
FOR MARTI GRAS!

EVERYTHINGS
AT LEAST TEN
BUCKS!



WELL, JESUS,
THERE'S GOTTA BE A
MCDONALD'S AROUND
HERE SOMEWHERE!

LAST THING I ATE
WAS THAT BAG OF CASHEWS
ON THE PLANE.

I MEAN, COME ON!
LET'S GET **SOMETHIN'!**

ARN!

ARNIE!

WE'RE GONNA
GET SOMETHING
TO EAT!

YEAH, OKAY...

SAY... WHAT'S GOING
ON DOWN THERE?

HE'S BEEN IN
A BAD MOOD EVER SINCE
WE GOT HERE. IS
HE MAD AT ERICA
ABOUT SOMETHING?

HE KNEW SHE
WAS GOING TO
DANCE, DIDN'T
HE?

SURE HE DID.
THERE'S MORE TO
IT THAN THAT.

LIKE
WHAT?

I DON'T
KNOW!

SO HOW
DO YOU KNOW
THERE'S MORE
TO IT?

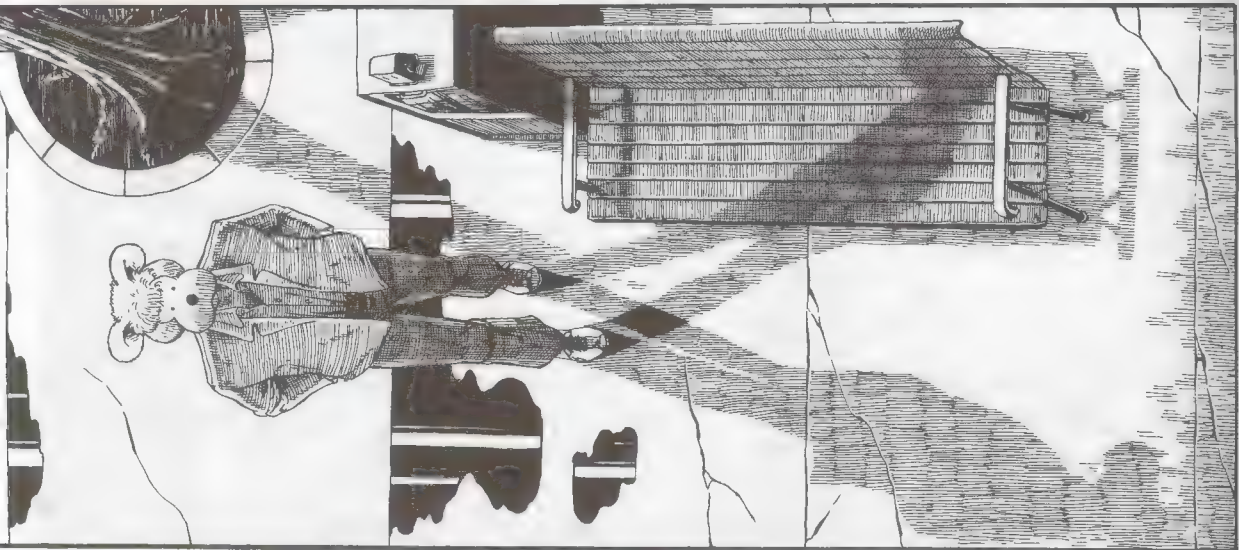
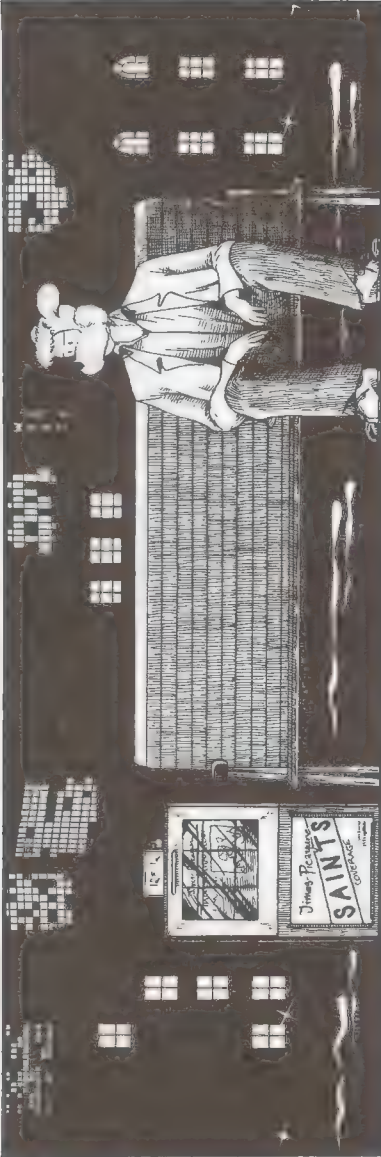
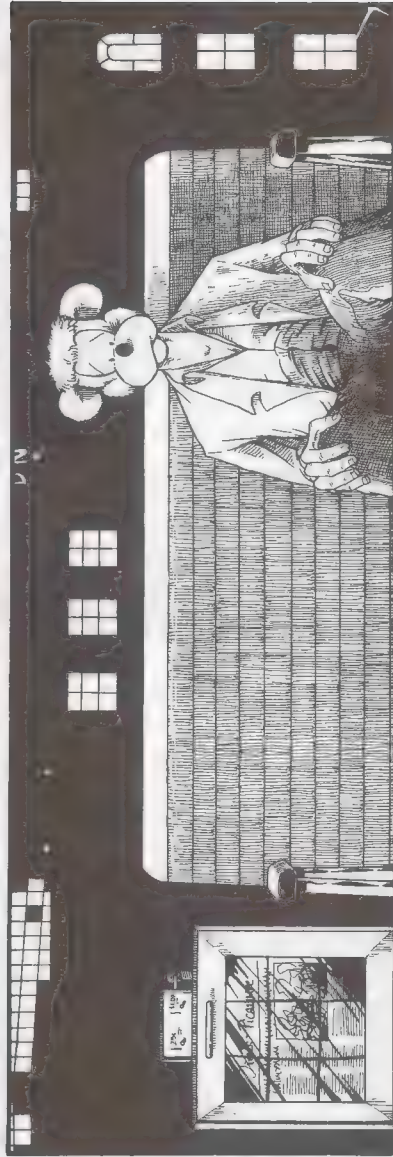
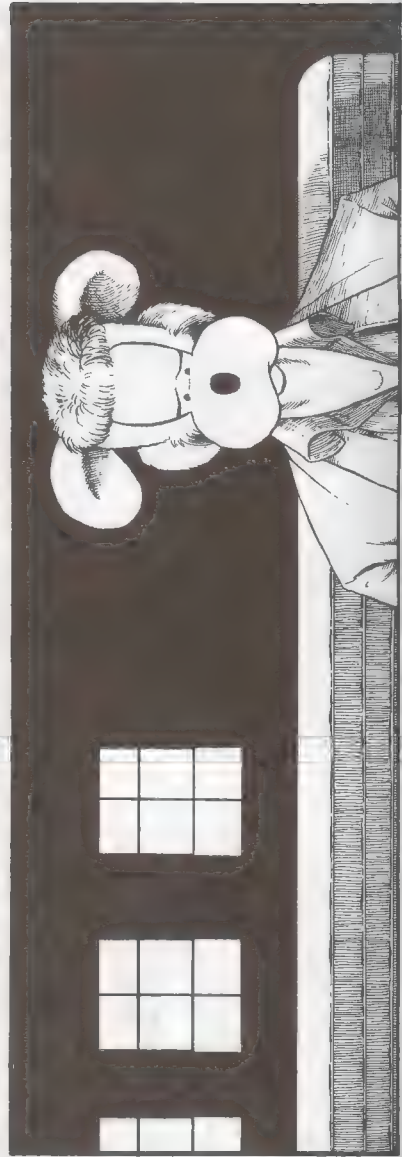
HUH? WELL,
IT'S OBVIOUS...
YOU CAN
TELL WHEN
THERE'S A
PROBLEM,
THAT'S ALL.

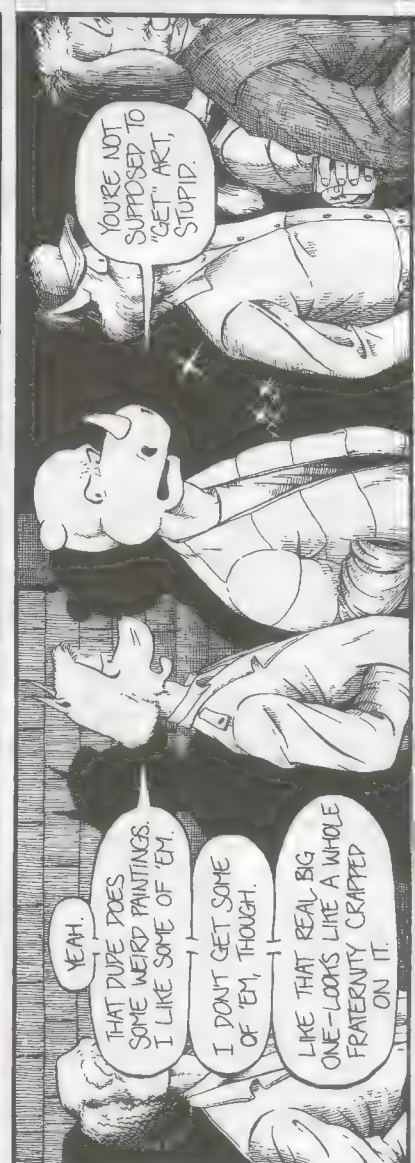
NOT REALLY.
I MEAN,
HOW DO YOU
KNOW HE ISN'T
MAD ABOUT
SOMETHING
ELSE
ENTIRELY?

I
DON'T
KNOW!

YOU'RE
A DORK,
JOEY.

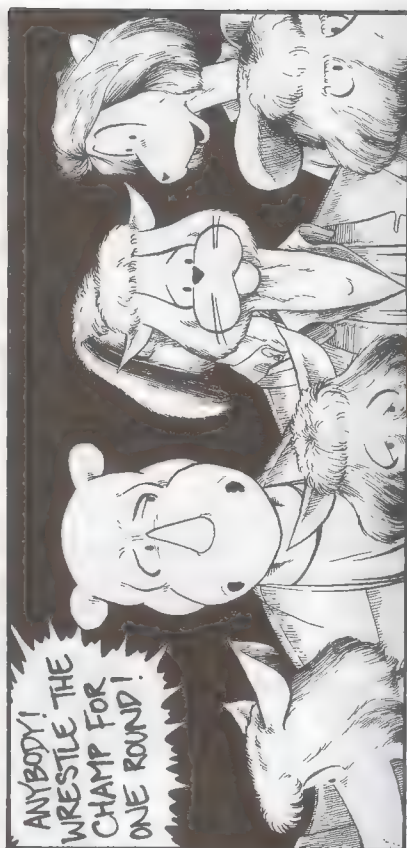
THANK
YOU!



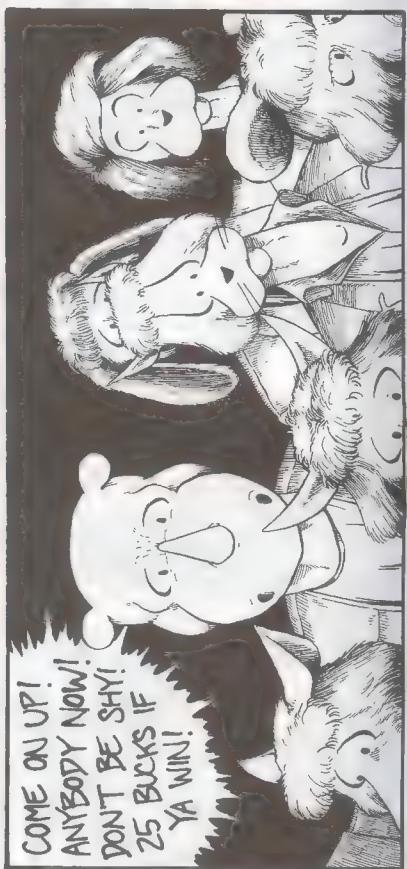




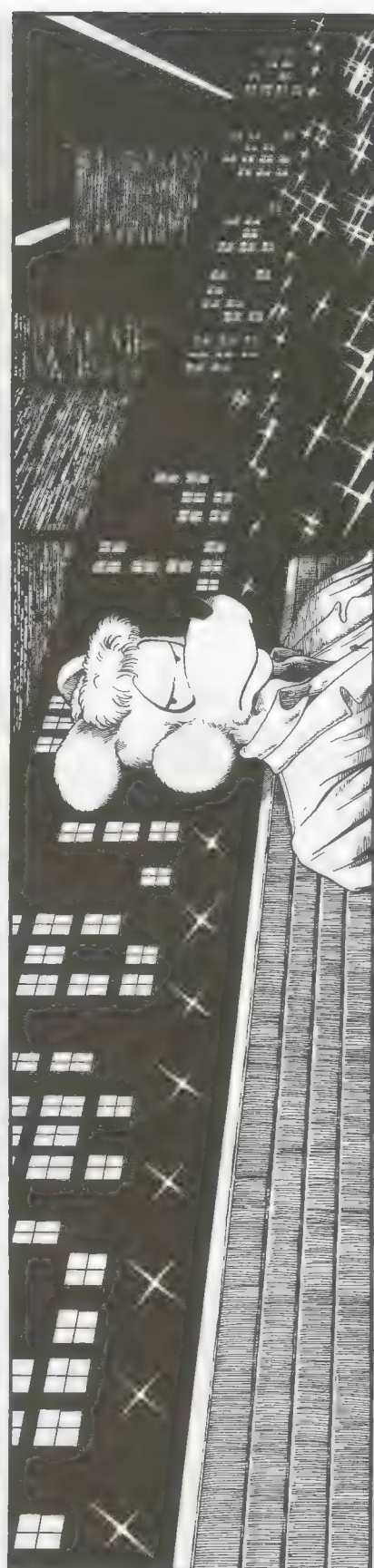
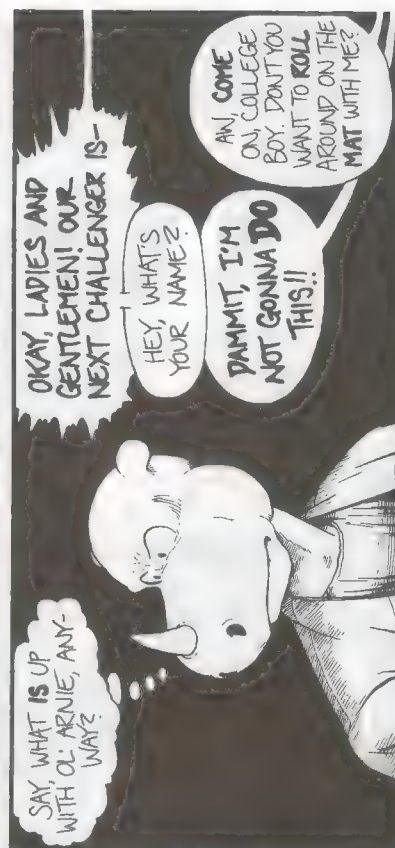
ALL RIGHT!
DON'T ANY OF YOU
GUYS THINK YOU
CAN BEAT THE
CHAMP? WHADDA
YA SAY?!



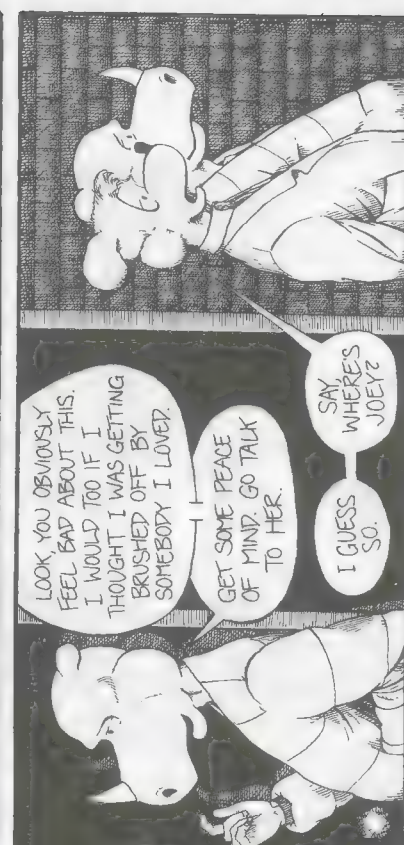
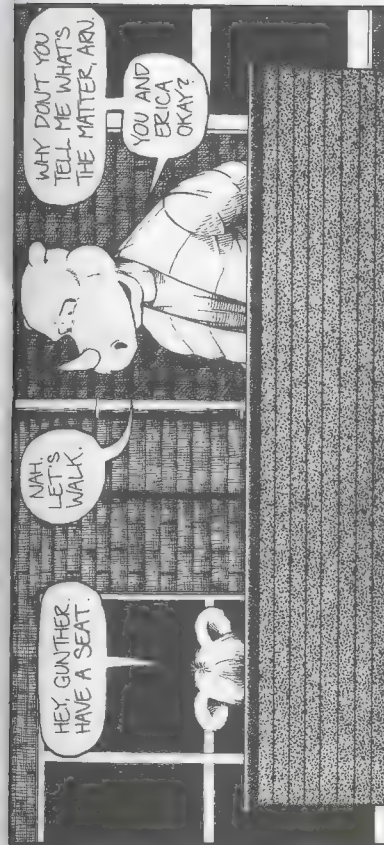
ANYBODY!
WRESTLE THE
CHAMP FOR
ONE ROUND!



COME ON UP!
ANYBODY NOW!
DON'T BE SHY!
25 BUCKS IF
YA WIN!

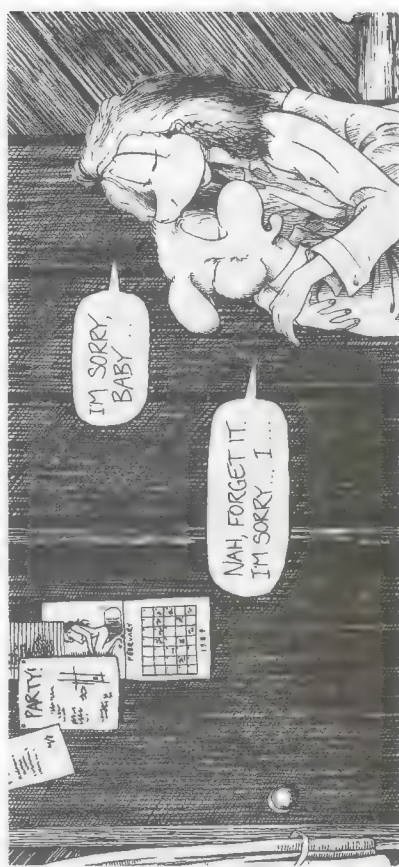


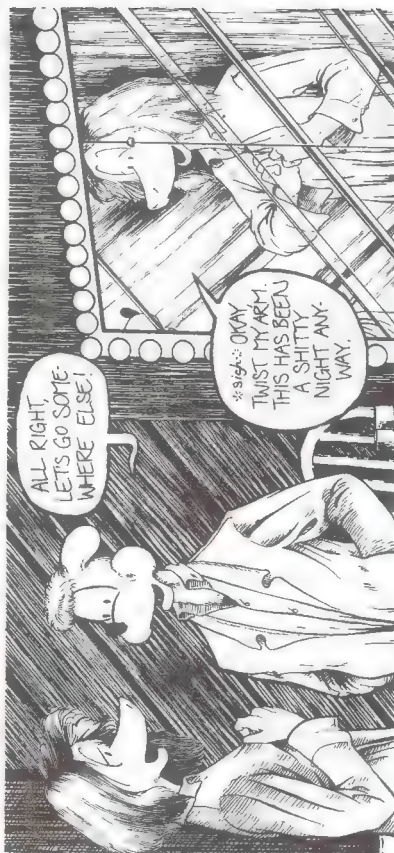
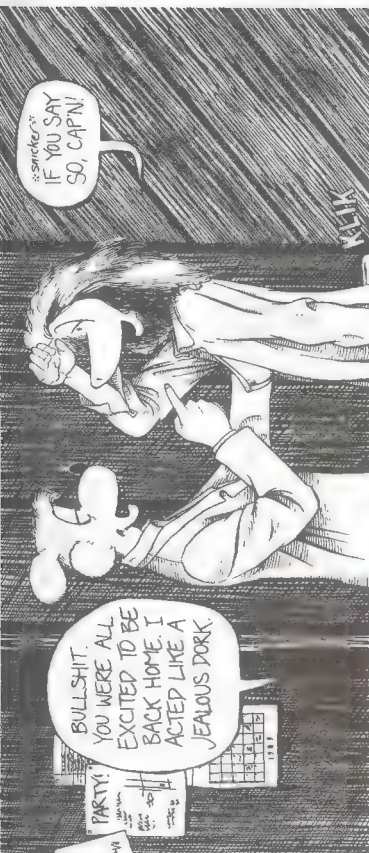
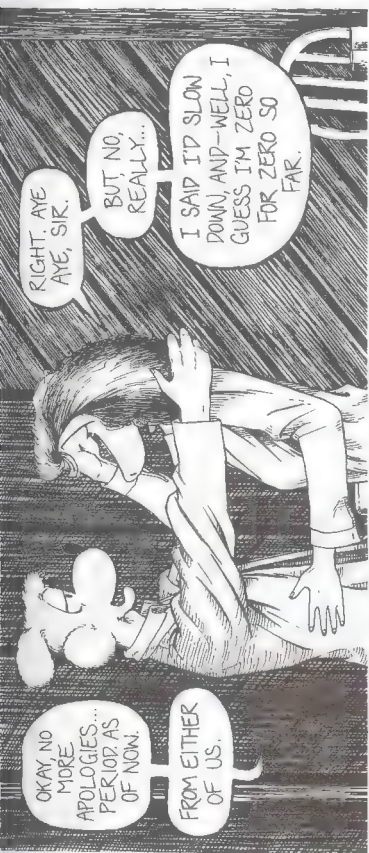














Bourbon ST

anal ST

DID YOU SAY
SOMETHING?

I LOVE YOU...

NOW, HOW DOES
ITALIAN SOUND?

NEW ORLEANS PRIZE

DEAR Hepcats

P.O. BOX 27157
AUSTIN, TX 78755-2157
hepcats@eden.com

Hi Martin,

Just dropped by the comics store today to try and buy my way out of a funk I've fallen into, bad habit I know, and saw *Hepcats* #0 on the shelves. Being on my list of "comics I've really go to find since everyone agrees they're so good" I snapped it up. Well if this is the quality of stuff I've been missing, I've waited way too long. I started reading just planning to read the first few pages while I uploaded some files...I then proceeded to re-read the book a couple of times. All I can say is it was right. Throw a lot of snow all over the campus, and a big ugly city (and less witty banter) and you've nailed my life. I keep staring at the crowd scenes trying to figure out which one is me. I know you probably don't need any more praise about your talents, but your dialogue is a true marvel to behold. It's beyond realistic, realistic implies that it's still not real. Your dialogue is...in some zone above writing. Literary photography.

Just wanted to tell you you've got a brand new dedicated fan, who plans on being with this title for a long time. Hey, and I just read one book. Any more like this and I'll be offering to wax your car with my clothes.

Take it easy,

BRAD FOX

Actually, just keep collecting the series (and perhaps convert a friend or two) and that will be enough. By the way, you're the guy reading the newspaper.

Dear Martin:

Under separate cover. I will be sending a letter to the Hepcats Information Service, asking them to sign me up. In this letter, I will honor (honour?) the memory of Malcolm Bourne, who, four or five years back, remarked that he read and enjoyed a title called *Hepcats*.

I sent a check for *Hepcats* #11 once: it was never cashed, so I don't know whether it never reached you or whether you didn't think it right to cash it while subsequent printings didn't seem like a good idea. What I do know is that I haven't found the last three *Hepcats* I need for a complete collection (#s 6, 7, and 11) and I probably will buy snowblind one of these days. I also know that I was nervous about *Hepcats*' return: there is a tendency in the alternative comics world (although it's not confined to it: see Sandman, for example) to treat a good comic book as if it were the holy grail, as an examination of the letter pages in *Bone* and *Strangers in Paradise* will attest, and the effect on me is negative. Chalk it up to Grouchiness of not wanting to belong

to a club who'll have me as a member, but as Henry Drummond said of the Bible in *Inherit the Wind*: "It's a good book, but it's not the only book."

Hepcats #0 alleviated these fears. Erica's wave was friendly; your text piece looked at the business of words and pictures squarely; and "Friday" was just a delight. I had forgotten how much these characters meant to me: good old Gunther, who can ask "who is the biggest dork in this picture?" because he knows—and we know—that it's not him, even if he's still trying to chart out a life for himself; easy-going Joey, a bundle of contradictions, who can clean and make a mess as easily as he can lose and find twenty dollars; Arnie, with his heart in the right place and his supermarket skills sorely challenged (even if Erica hadn't said "Regular," does she really strike Arnie as a "Super-Plus"?); and Erica, who seemed so cool and together, but whose world is different from any Arnie has ever known.

Welcome back, all of you, and thanks for the glimpses of Monica, David (from Houston? Maybe he doesn't take steroids, but if he knows Mrs. Parker, I'd run...). Nothing much really happened, but, then, in real life, nothing much really happens to most of us—and it's still important. If only to us.

The first series didn't have color and didn't need it; the new one does and makes good use of it, both inside (the two conflicting kitchens) and outside (the beautiful campus). Kudos to you, Robert Acosta and to Pat Duke for some lovely work...pity Martin Thomas couldn't join you, though. As for your drawing, while you've stuck to your resolve not to draw octopus guys, it was good to find your menagerie branching out with Jay and with the "presidents of every country" in the back-up.

As for the "Adventures of Superdynamo Boy," they were worthy of the medals Joey's young hero received, and I hope you'll feature more of this sort of whimsy in the future. A phone booth and a magic word...ah, it warms the heart, it does!

Keep up the good work and thank you for your time.

Very truly yours,

CHARLES J. SPERLING
FLUSHING, NY

P.S. Oddly, I saw this two weeks after finding *Greener Pastures* #1...a title which began as a back-up I saw in the first series of *Hepcats*! I'm sure that means

something, but I don't know what. What I do, you'll be the second to know. I'll be the first, naturally.)

Lest anyone gets the wrong idea, Malcolm Bourne is of course totally alive and resides in England with his wife and family. I have, sadly, finally been forced to back out of our long-planned collaboration, the thriller Loving Couples, but Malcolm has several other publishing projects on tap, including I believe a book from NBM. Keep an eye open for his name.

Martin!!!

Wow, I thought you had died or something, then I walk into my comic store and I see *Hepcats* #0! ALL RIGHT! Ok, a little explanation...

I doubt you remember me, but I sure remember the chances I got to meet you at some of the distributor conventions and such a couple years back. I moved from Pennsylvania to Texas about a year ago, and I remembered just before I started reading about you going to the trade press in paperback format. I figured whatever worked for you was the best, so I figured I would just have to sit back and wait. When I got down here to Dallas I searched forever to find a decent comic store, and finally found Keith's Comics (Have you ever seen the comic shops here in Dallas? Fucking PATHETIC. I lived in Hickville, PA which had 3 comic stores ALL of which were far superior to any of the 30 or so stores I have visited in the DFW area. Just downright sad. Keith isn't bad, just not that good, either. He bugged the people at the comic store for news about Hepstuff, but to no avail. Admittedly, my attention to the comic world faltered. I still buy insane amounts of comics themselves, but gave up on buying *Wizard* and such, so upcoming events were just not at the front of my mind. Similar to your "I just want to be my comic adductee." I have gotten a mindset of "I just want to read my comics."

So when I saw *Hepcats* #0 I was shocked and so happy to see they were back! Congrats!!!

One thing I've been meaning to write to you for a long time, but have never had a chance. To say...

Hepcats #11. Martin, this is the single most moving and amazing issue of any comic book I have read in my lifetime. Period. I have a bookshelf at home where I put squarebound books, *Sandman* hardcovers, *Cerebus* phone books, etc., and there is one regular comic on that shelf

Hepcats #11. I still remember being surprised at the unusual cover. And when I opened it and read on, I was completely blown away. Just amazing. Maybe the book was overlooked and didn't get any of those silly Eisners. (Sorry, to me the Eisner and Harvey awards are just a way of people in the industry congratulating themselves for being so smart to find decent comics. They are just a kind of alternative popularity contest now.)

Anyway, I hope you keep yourself in view for awhile this time and wish you all the best of luck. I may not be up on everything, but I do know that right now is a tough time to do anything in comics outside of file for bankruptcy, so I wish you all the best. KEEP IT UP!!!

TIM STOLTZFUS
CEDAR HILL, TX

Dear Martin,

Boy, what a long wait it has been...! A long time ago (I can't even remember how long), I bought the first *Hepcats* trade paperback. Before that I had never heard of the book, but it looked good and I decided to give it a go.

Some time after that I ordered the *Snowblind* collection. For some reason it never arrived at my local comic shop, so I assumed it had been cancelled. Now at long last my wait is rewarded, because I just bought *Hepcats* #0. Comic book size... larger panels... color... all different from the format of the first collection. Not to mention the fact that you found a new publisher. But the characters are the same.. the atmosphere is the same...and I must say I am hooked. Again. So thank you for that! One question... in #0, I saw an ad for the *Snowblind* collection. Does that mean it came out after all? And will you reprint the stories in this collection in the current series? (Okay, I guess that's two questions). Thanks for listening and keep up the good work.

PETER DeBRUIN
THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS

Just a reminder: anyone still confused about how the reprint schedule works can hit the Hepcats web page and read the FAQ for detailed scheduling information. I'd go into it here but it's really space-consuming. If you're not online...hey, join the 90's already! (Just kidding...)

hello!!!!
Recently i've been reading all the x titles and have been getting bored with them. Lately i've been on the lookout for more independent comics. I've bought a bunch of Sirius stuff and my friends publish their own comics, so i get copies of all of their stuff but i've heard a lot of good stuff about *Hepcats*, so i picked it up. (ish #0) i can't help but get over it!!! i really love it and it has made a permanent place in my comics collection. Keep up the good work and i'll continue to buy them!!!!

A new fan,

DARRELL HERBST

Greetings Martin,

I first saw *Hepcats* in the *Daily Texan*, when I was on a highschool field trip to UT Austin. I was instantly blown away by the precision and beauty of your artwork. Then I actually read the story and I was floored again. An intelligent story in a comic strip? Also I had been drawing anthropomorphic characters for some time, but I never thought anyone would take the time to do a realistic comic with them. That took guts. At the time I did not know what an anthropomorphic was, I just drew them. Your artwork has influenced me quite a bit. I now own *The Collegiate Hepcats*, *Snowblind Part One*, and several of the comic books.

I'm happy to hear that the *Hepcats* comic is now going to be published by the Antarctic Press. I buy a lot of their furry titles. Also I will be seeing you at Antarcticacon. I hope you do not mind me sitting around a while and picking your brain on some of your inking techniques and the comic business in general (I am currently working on my first graphic novel).

I invite you to check out my artwork at
<http://lonestar.texas.net/~sparrow/sparrow.htm> It is also available on Tuceti if you prefer FTP.

Keep up the great work!

Sincerely,

MICHAEL PENA

It's always exciting to hear my work has been an inspiration to so many talented artists. Just keep drawing!

Greetings and Salutations:

Snowblind Part One recently arrived at my doorstep (a signed hardcover, no less) and it had been a while since I'd read the two Special Editions and *Hepcats* #12, which I enjoyed, but I knew I'd missed out on a lot in between.

After finishing *Snowblind* I realized just HOW much I had missed.....

Simply put, Martin, *Snowblind Part One* was one of the finest stories I have ever come across in the comics medium. Engaging characters, great art, and best of all, a damn good story.

There have been some fine comics in the past few years; *Snowblind* ranks up there with the best of them. I'm looking forward to #13.

Best of luck with the reprints and your move to Antarctic Press. You've got yourself a reader for the long haul. Now excuse me, I have to rush out and find a copy of *The Collegiate Hepcats*. (Anybody got a hardcover? Please?)

SCOTT CONNER
BLACKSBURG, VA

Mr. Wagner,
I absolutely love *Hepcats* #0 put out by Antarctic Press. It's a shame I haven't been able to sample your work before but, Philadelphia isn't exactly indie friendly. As

a 22 year old college student, who also holds down a full time night job, I find the story thus far refreshingly real and entertaining. This is just the thing I've been looking for in a comic. Something other than the standard cape and tights fare, a story line I can relate to, and above all else, good story telling. This proves emotional jeopardy can be just as entertaining as SMASH! and BAM! Enough of the praise and on with the questions. Are there subscriptions available? And are your characters based on people from your personal life experiences (yourself, family, friends) or strictly from your fertile imagination? Keep up the wonderful art and great narratives.

WARDELL S. HOLT II

AP is offering subscriptions at six issues for \$18.00. Send them to AP at the address on the indicia page (inside front cover). For God's sake don't send subscriptions to me.

Hello!

Just a few words to tell you how I've appreciated *Hepcats* #0. I was lucky enough to get a copy of the CD edition, and hell I'm glad I did. This was the best \$9.95 investment ever, and I'm really looking forward to *Radio Hepcats* #2!!

Oh, and the book was nice, too... :-)

Well, seriously, I really loved the book (you have a new fan I'm afraid) but don't know how to tell you that in a way you haven't heard before. So instead of being unoriginal and telling you how wonderful you are, I'll just say a big thank you for putting so much of your life in this work. I was touched by the story of that book (I mean what you've gone through personally while trying to publish it), and hope you'll get the success you deserve as soon as possible.

Thanks again,

DAVID

*Thank you for recognizing those sacrifices. I only wish you'd included your last name with your e-mail so I'd have a better idea who you are. And look! Another endorsement for *Radio Hepcats*! To think that there are some folks out there who still haven't gotten it yet. (Heh heh...)*

Yo Martin! I loved *Hepcats* #0, but my question is: were you planning any sort of retaliation against the *Comics Journal* for them slamming you in the "Shit List"? I think it would be hilarious! Keep up the great work (and fuck Greg Stump)!!!

MARC PEDERSEN

Not really. The Journal is struggling for relevance in today's marketplace. It's dishonest, in my opinion, that they trumpet themselves as this paragon of journalistic integrity, but constantly print baseless personal attacks masquerading as reviews. It all smacks of desperation to me. All they'd have to do to regain readers is go back to being a real comics journal.



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These are among the coolest comic shops out there, and they support Hepcats and books like it! Which means you should support them! (If you are a cool retailer and would like to be showcased in this section, contact Martin—not AP—at P.O. Box 27157, Austin, TX 78755-2157 or online at hepcats@eden.com)

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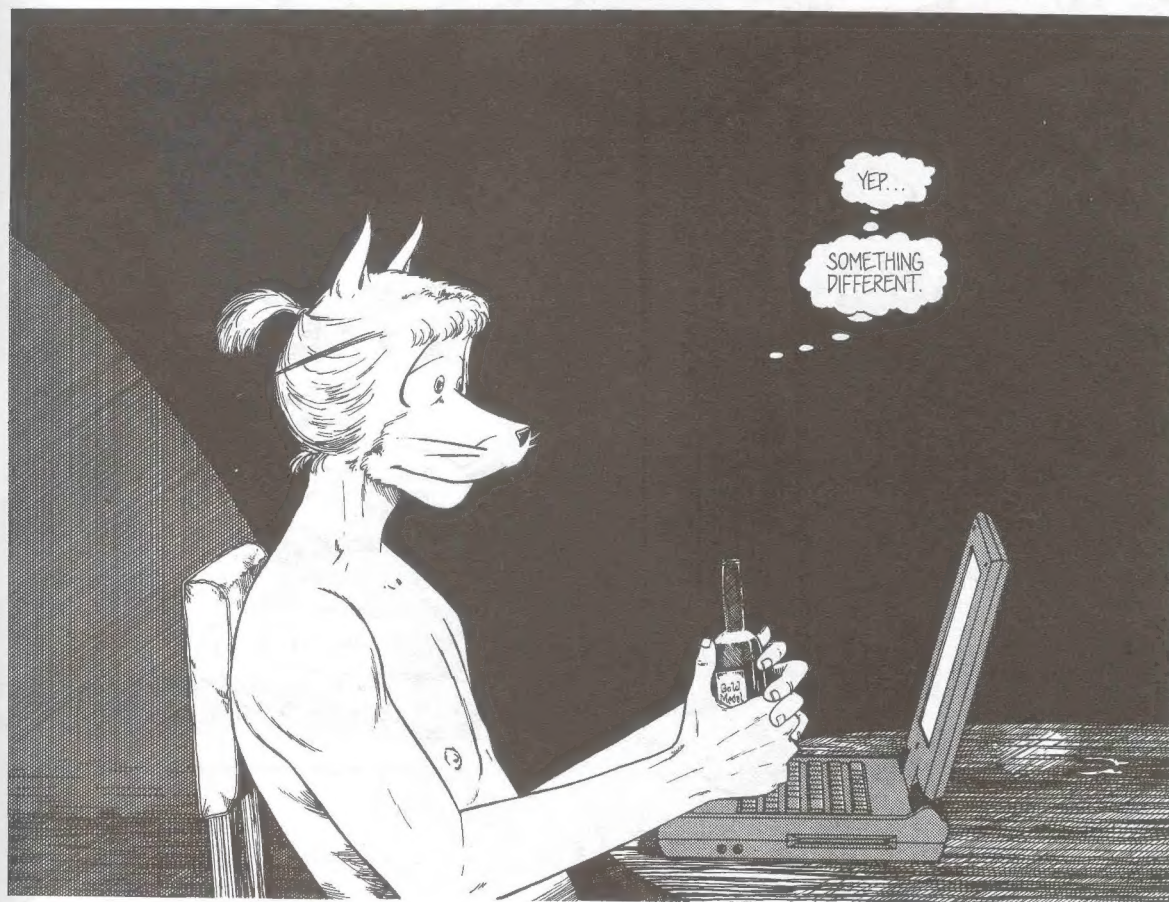
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What follows is the prologue to *Why of the World*, a new major-figures graphic novel. It was obviously sliced into the future, and well ahead of *Long & Murder* 2006 love days at the end of the '30's. This prologue runs 29 pages and will be serialized in *Asbury* starting in the back of issues 1-12, with the exception of issues 9 and 11. It will also be published in its own volume to be coming in 1997, the benefit of 2001 printing will be a little purchase the 1997 prints of issues 1-12, 1997 is still in the books. The film will not come 1997-2001.



JOEY!

JOEY McLYON
SECTION SUPERVISOR

HERE'S THE INFO
ON THE LARBALEISTER
CONTRACTS. SOMEBODY'D
MISFILED IT.

THANKS,
DEWEY.

SO...I HEAR
YOU'VE GOT A CHAT
SESSION WITH
COOGAN LATER
TODAY...

WHAT'S UP?

JUST SOME
STUFF, DEWEY.

NOTHING YOU NEED
TO WORRY ABOUT.

HOKAY!

DON'T FORGET
THE MEETING AT
THREE.

I HAVEN'T, DEWEY.

THANKS FOR THE FILE.



